



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VINTAGE WORLD WAR II BOMBER FINDS NEW HOME AFTER EIGHT-YEAR RESTORATION

HOUSTON, TEXAS – *Texas Raiders* is just one of only twelve remaining flyable B-17 Bombers from World War II and recently emerged from eight-years of intensive restoration at Houston's Hobby Airport. On Friday, March 26, 2010 at 10:00 am this previously award-winning Flying Fortress will leave her temporary home at Hangar WR-5, located on the west side of Hobby at 8294 Travelair, flying north to David Wayne Hooks Airport where she will be stationed at Tomball Jet Center.

In 2008, while this \$3.5 million WWII Bomber lay in partial assembly, the volunteer members of the Gulf Coast Wing, a unit of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF), lost their lease at Hobby Airport and made a community appeal for hangar relocation. A temporary facility was located at Hobby Airport's Hangar WR-5 avoiding a complete dismantling and shipment out of Houston. During the past fifteen months the restoration process has continued and *Texas Raiders* became airworthy October 14, 2009. Using volunteer and contract labor, the CAF Gulf Coast Wing members have spent over \$600,000 in restoration costs, exceeding 250,000 man hours in labor returning this vintage aircraft to flying condition.

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Texas Raiders was delivered to the U.S. Army Air Force July 12, 1945 and became a member of the Commemorative Air Force's *Ghost Squadron* in September of 1967 and was assigned to the Gulf Coast Wing in 1971. Her last public flying mission prior to the restoration was November, 2001, when the National D-day Museum in New Orleans, LA celebrated its Grand Opening. An airworthiness directive (AD) brought the Flying Fortress down for inspection of the wing-spars and associated structures in early 2002.

Complying with the AD and undertaking the required repairs to this sixty-five year old Bomber have resulted in lengthy yet necessary restoration efforts to save this unique part of flying history. The Gulf Coast Wing - CAF members estimate the operating costs of this aircraft to be \$2,500-per flying hour and rely on public donations, air-exhibit proceeds and grants to continue operations.

Collecting, restoring and flying warbirds for more than half a century, the Commemorative Air Force ranks as one of the largest private air forces in the world. The CAF is dedicated to honoring American Military Aviation through flight, exhibition and remembrance with a flying museum of classic military aircraft. A non-profit educational association, the CAF has approximately 9,000 members and a fleet of almost 160 airplanes representing more than 60 different types – including planes from several foreign countries and military conflicts since WWII. For more CAF information, visit www.commemorativeairforce.org or call (432) 563-1000. For more information regarding this movement of *Texas Raiders*, call Col Sandy Thompson, Public Information Officer at (817) 341 1541 or visit www.gulfcoastwing.org